

Congress of the United States

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 17, 2013

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Jewell:

We write in opposition to the Fish and Wildlife Service's (FWS) recent announcement that it would not hold a public hearing in Arizona on the proposed Mexican wolf rulemakings. Arizona communities have borne the brunt of the Mexican wolf recovery program, and those same communities are poised to bear an even greater burden under the proposed rules. Despite numerous requests for public hearings in Arizona, the FWS ignored our constituents.

This represents a significant departure from past practice, when the FWS would regularly schedule public hearings on the Mexican wolf proposal in Arizona and New Mexico. For example, in 1996 and 1998, hearings were held in Springerville and Phoenix, Arizona. The FWS's latest proposal, however, includes hearings in Sacramento, California and Washington, D.C.—locations with little (if any) connection to the Mexican wolf recovery program.

It strains credulity to argue that these proposed hearings give Arizonans an adequate opportunity to voice their myriad concerns with the proposed rules, which include massive expansions of the wolf recovery area in Arizona, modifications to management of those areas, and potential restrictions on private land. Such modifications will have a significant impact on public safety and property rights. At a minimum, Arizonans deserve an opportunity to directly express their concerns at a public hearing in the state.

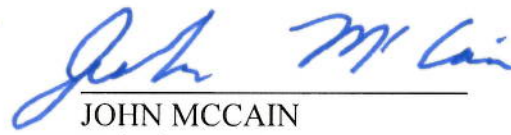
As such, we request that you schedule a hearing in the affected Arizona communities to address the proposed rules. We further request that FWS extend the public comment period for at least 30 days after such a hearing.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



JEFF FLAKE
United States Senator



JOHN MCCAIN
United States Senator



PAUL GOSAR
Member of Congress